

Tale Feathers

April 2005

Volume 72

Number 3

Inside

**Marsh bird
Monitoring**

Birding trips

**President's
Report**

**Perils of Urban
Birds**

Missouri's IBA's

**America's Birdiest
County**

Barn Owl Boxes

Endangered in Missouri- The Interior Least Tern May Joint Program with the Sierra Club

Mark your calendar for Thursday, May 26 at 7:30 p.m. at Litzinger School.

Rochelle Renken, biologist with the Missouri Department of Conservation, will discuss the current status and conservation strategies for the federally-endangered Interior Least Tern in Missouri. The Interior least tern is a bird that forages over large rivers and nests on open expanses of sand or gravel on islands in the river. Channelization, irrigation, and the construction of dams, levees, reservoirs, and dikes have eliminated most of the sandbars suitable for tern nesting. Further, poorly timed water discharge from dams have flooded terns' nests and nesting sites or allowed woody vegetation to encroach on the few remaining sandbars. In Missouri, Interior least terns used to nest along the Missouri River and southern half of the Mississippi River, especially near the confluence. Presently, they are found on less than 20 small islands along a 210-mile stretch of the Mississippi from Cape Girardeau to the Missouri-Arkansas-Tennessee border.

With the current least tern population in Missouri perhaps as low as 500 nesting pairs, conservation efforts are critical. Dr. Renken and others with MDC have been working with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the conservation departments of neighboring states and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to identify and implement an effective survival plan for the least tern.

Dr. Renken received her PhD from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1988 with a focus on wildlife ecology and the ecology and conservation of birds. Her time with MDC has involved assessing the natural and human-caused factors that influence the abundance, distribution and ecology of non-game and endangered species in Missouri.

This program continues a successful tradition of partnership between St. Louis Audubon and the Eastern Missouri Group of the Sierra Club. That means you will have twice the people to meet and twice the opportunities to discover. The meeting is open to all, members or not.

Litzinger School is on the east side of Lindbergh, 1 mile south of Hwy 40. Questions, call Mitch Leachman at 314-739-5112.

St. Louis Audubon Society

BARN OWL BOXES

I am very pleased to say that on February 25th, two Barn Owl boxes were delivered to Tom Leifield, the manager of Marais Temps Clair Conservation Area. One was built to plans from Busch Gardens and resembles an overgrown bluebird house. The other is built to plans that came to us from Oklahoma. Originally 4 cubic feet, the plans were reduced to 3 cubic feet. Walter Crawford, the director of the World Bird Sanctuary, tells me that the smaller box does well in Florida or California, but the Midwestern Barn Owl prefers a box at least 3 cubic feet. Our builders thought it worth constructing the smaller one from scraps just to see what would happen with it. My heartfelt thanks go to the builders of the boxes, Tom Creley, a SLAS member, and his good friends Ed Wetteroff and Jim Joyner. These guys normally build furniture, and MTC received the nicest boxes they are likely to see. I hope the owls appreciate the quality construction.

The boxes are at MTC, but need to be mounted on the selected sites. It will be interesting to see if we get tenants, and which box will be chosen first. In the meantime, those of you who are interested in having boxes on your private property will be able to get copies of the plans. Expect the larger box to cost \$300 in materials, and that does not include the 4 poles on which to mount it 10 to 15 feet from the ground. Fortunately, Tom Leifield is providing both the poles and the tractor or forklift that will place the box on top of them.

Dency Kahn
(314) 997-4555

President's Report

Dave Tylka



This is my last article as president. As I wrap up my presidency, I want to sincerely thank the many other chapter volunteers

who generously gave, and continue to give, their time and talents to our Audubon cause. I would also like to share some of my wishes and hopes for our chapter. I wish the new chapter president and Board members well in the upcoming years. And, as new generations of volunteers join the St. Louis Audubon Society Board, I hope that we never lose sight of our chapter's history, which began in 1948 when we became the first National Audubon chapter in the country. Institutional memory for any organization is a valuable commodity.

As our chapter continues the implementation of our three-year strategic plan and then begins the next planning process, I hope that we learn from our past experiences and integrate new ideas to accomplish our goals. To our newer and younger Board members, I encourage you to take the time to contact some of the keepers of our chapter's institutional memory and call people like Paul Bauer, Jim Holsen, and Mary Lou and Jerry Miller for background information on whatever projects you pursue.

I hope that someday we will be able to afford an office where educational materials and historical chapter archives can be safely stored and used. Educational bird mounts and specimens, classroom materials, audiovisual equipment, financial records, conservation management plans, and a wealth of historical records are tucked away in dozens of basements across the metropolitan area.

I encourage any and all St. Louis Audubon Society members to become active at the state and national levels of Audubon. Charlie Callison is an excellent role model. After he retired, he became a full-time volunteer lobbyist for the Missouri Audubon Council—the precursor of Audubon Missouri. Although he became active at the national level, he always remained a grassroots champion. He regularly stood up for the rights of chapters, in spite of being openly criticized and occasionally labeled as an obstructionist.

During a nationwide chapter rebellion against National about twenty years ago, he was instrumental in persuading the National Audubon Society to adopt grassroots regional representatives to serve on its Board. Currently, nine of thirty-six National Board members are elected by chapter members in various geographical regions across the United States. I served an interesting three-year term as the North Central Regional Representative on the National Board, thanks to Charlie's dedication to chapters.

If you are a member who is not active in our chapter, I hope that you consider volunteering your time and talents. We would sincerely appreciate your input. I believe that chapters are the lifeblood of Audubon. Conservation is local. For people who live in towns and cities across the country, chapters are Audubon.

Marsh Bird Monitoring at B.K Leach Memorial Conservation Area

Volunteers are needed to help with this survey

In 2001, the Missouri Department of Conservation tripled the size of the wetland area of B.K. Leach Conservation Area located along the Mississippi River in northern Lincoln County. The expansion consisted of two tracts, Bittern Basin (942 acres) and King's Lake (1958 acres). Recently completed levee construction has created over 2000 acres of recovering marsh. These acres are being managed to improve nesting and brood rearing habitat for resident marsh birds by encouraging the development of marsh habitat. King rail and least bittern nests have already been discovered on the Bittern Basin Unit.

The restoration presents a unique opportunity to monitor the succession of former agricultural habitats into productive marsh habitat. A program to monitor marsh birds has been proposed whose goal is to measure the marsh bird response by obtaining an annual estimate of abundance and density for select marsh birds. Species to be targeted include: Black Rail, Least Bittern, Yellow Rail, Sora, Virginia Rail, King Rail, American Bittern, and Common Moorhen. Data collected will also be suitable for establishing trends in marsh bird density and abundance over time. A separate vegetation monitoring effort is already underway on the bittern basin unit.

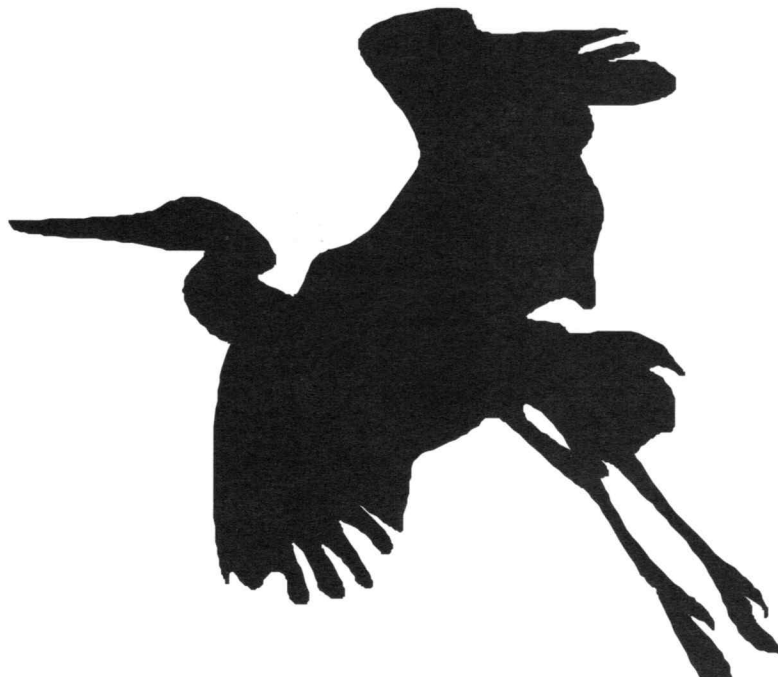
... The monitoring program will follow a standardized methodology developed by the USFWS. Fifty points will be sampled by playback tapes. (20 on bittern basin, 30 on King's Lake) from levees. All needed equipment will be supplied by MDC. All points will be sampled 3 times a season, with at least 7 days between samples. Proposed dates are June 4, 11, and 25th although high winds or steady rain will postpone the survey dates. Surveys will occur in the evenings, 1.5 hours before to 0.5 hours after sunset.

For the 2005 season, a pilot survey of the bittern basin unit (20 points) is planned. To utilize potential volunteers, this will involve a short training session (2 hours) followed by the initial survey of the bittern basin unit. The Wildlife Management Biologist, Brian Loges, will need a list of potential volunteers by May 1, 2005 to get things started. A minimum of eight people willing to survey will be required to complete the 20 points in a single evening.

Loges is hopeful that area birders will be interested in tackling this pursuit and he looks forward to working with members of the group. Please contact Brian or John Solodar if you have any questions or comments.

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SLAS Birding Trips for April, May and June 2005

John Solodar

It's time for the big spring migration push. We have schedule eight trips to as many different birding locations over consecutive weekends this year. Join us as many times as you can to see the migrants in breeding plumage.

April 16, Saturday - Castlewood State Park. This is the first of our long string of spring trips aimed at the large group of migrant warblers, thrushes, tanagers, itcerids, etc., which come through over the next few weeks. Castlewood always gives us lots of good birds so join Mike Brady and John Solodar on this half day walk at 8:00 AM.

April 23, Saturday - BK Leach and Prairie Slough. These two areas are still relatively new to most St. Louis area birders, but they are good spots and worth exploring. Join Dave Rogles and Torrey Berger starting at 8:00 AM at B.K.Leach.

April 30, Saturday - This is an all day trip starting at Shaw Nature Reserve and going on to Robertsville State Park. It starts at 7:30 AM as we are almost at the peak of warbler migration and want to utilize as much of the morning daylight as possible. Shaw is a great place for birding with a variety of habitats and Robertsville is attractive for Henslow's sparrows in some areas. Leaders are Connie Alwood and John Solodar.

May 7, Saturday - This trip to Tower Grove Park comes just one day before the historic peak of migration. Tower Grove has been one of the premier birding spots for many years. Pat Lueders and John Solodar will lead this trip starting at 7:30 AM from the Gaddy Bird Garden.

May 14, Saturday - Nick Barber and Paul Bauer will lead this trip in Forest Park. This St. Louis city park is the other perennial good birding park in the city. We'll start at 7:30 AM at the Kennedy Forest Trailhead off Wells Drive.

May 21, Saturday - We travel to the river confluence area this week to MDC's Columbia Bottom. This relatively new area is proving to be an excellent spring birding location. MDC's Mike Arduser will help John Solodar lead this trip which starts at 7:30 AM.

May 28, Saturday - Little Creve Coeur Lake/Marsh. The wet part of Little Creve Coeur is becoming so filled in that it is now more Marsh than Lake, but the birding here is still very good. This trip will start at 7:30 AM and will be led by Torrey Berger and Dave Rogles.

June 4, Saturday - Lost Valley Trail has been excellent for spring warblers the first weekend in June for the last few years. It's one of the few places where we have had Kentucky, Cerulean and Worm-eating Warblers all on one trip. We'll also try to cover the Katy Trail Access area and perhaps parts of Busch Conservation Area or the Blue Grosbeak Trail. Pat Lueders and Mike Grant will lead this trip which starts at Lost Valley 7:30 AM.

How to get there

B.K.Leach. From I-70 in St. Charles County, MO, take Hwy 79 north through Winfield and into Foley. About 4.5-5.0 miles north of Foley turn right onto County Rd M with signs to B.K. Leach on Hwy 79 at this turn. Follow M until you see sign for B.K.Leach and road turning right. Meet at this intersection.

Castlewood State Park. Take Big Bend west from I-270 for about 6 miles. Turn left on Ries Road. Follow Ries to its termination, then turn left into the Park. Park in lot on right just before the first small stream.

Columbia Bottom - Take Riverview Blvd north from the northern leg of I-270 (the last exit in Missouri before I-270 crosses into Illinois) and go 2.8 miles to Columbia Bottom entrance on the right. Go 1.7 miles and meet at the River Access Parking lot on the left.

Forest Park - Take Hampton Ave north from I-64 (Hwy 40 to locals) in St. Louis City. To access the Kennedy Forest Trailhead turn left onto Wells Drive at the first traffic light after Hampton crosses over I-64/Hwy 40. Follow Wells past the Zoo and look for the MDC trailhead signs on the right. Park in the inner area of the circle.

Little Creve Coeur Lake/Marsh - From the western leg of I-270 take Olive 2.0 miles west to Creve Coeur Mill Road (White Royal Banks building on right). Turn right (north) and drive 1.3 miles to the entrance to Seeger Golf Driving Range. This is a small dirt road that goes over the railroad tracks on the left. Drive past the clubhouse to the two red barns in the back.

Lost Valley Trail - From the intersection of Hwy 40 and Hwy 94 just over the Missouri River in St. Charles County, take Hwy 94 south (the signs say west but you are going south) 5.7 miles to the Lost Valley Trailhead on the right.

Shaw Nature Reserve - I-44 west from I-270 to Gray Summit (Hwy 100). Cross over I-44 on Hwy 100. Follow Hwy 100 one block to entrance. (Entrance fee \$3.00 per person.)

Tower Grove Park (Gaddy Bird Garden)- I-44 or I-64 (Highway 40) to south Kingshighway. From I-64 go about 1 mile to left on Magnolia. Park on street; walk to the brushy area (Gaddy Bird Garden) at the northwest corner of the park.

Perils of Urban Birds

Carol Kershner, Director Wild Bird Rehabilitation

Most of the birds we take in at Wild Bird Rehabilitation have been the victims of urban phenomena which represent constant danger to these small creatures. The urban environment itself can cause problems. For example, concentrated environments and landscaped yards eliminate some safety features for new fledglings. Leaving their nests in trees with lower branches trimmed and undergrowth removed leave birds exposed and easy targets for predators. Decreased nesting sites force birds into less than ideal sites leading to failed nests. Understanding local birds' needs can certainly help to provide more "bird friendly" environments.

The following lists principal perils birds may face and some proposed solutions.

1) Flying into windows:

Often birds do not see windows as a solid barrier. This can be due to sunlight reflecting off the glass causing a mirror image of nearby foliage or clean glass (often on higher windows) perceived as a clear

passage. The solution is two-fold. Place something on the outer surface or outside immediately in front of the window to eliminate the reflection. Ribbons, strips of cloth or some kind of paper can be effective. For those clear windows tape black paper or plastic silhouettes of a descending hawk on the outer surface.

2) Hit by cars:

This is an unfortunate consequence of the large number of cars moving around daily on our roads. During the breeding and nesting season, spring and early summer, birds are more active.

When driving on roads lined with heavy shrubbery, slow down and be alert for birds flying across the road. We would also suggest driving less and walking and bicycling more.

3) Caught by dog or cat:

Roaming cats are not only lethal to birds but also shorten the life of cats. Cats are not native predators and survive quite happily indoors. Predation by domestic animals affects the individual prey as well as the

birds (nestlings or fledglings) they may be caring for. Birds that are caught by a cat, if they survive, must be put on antibiotics regardless of their injuries due to the bacteria found in the mouths of cats. Recovery can be long and stressful. Experience has found that bells on collars are not effective in preventing cats from killing birds. The obvious solution is to not let your cats run free. In most cities it is not legal to let dogs run free, so our suggestion is to keep an eye on your dogs when they are in your yard especially while birds have young.

4) Lawn and garden poisoning:

Overuse of lawn chemicals, especially those with diazanon, kill and maim songbirds every year, especially worm eating Robins. Almost all birds we see in our backyards raise their young on insects and worms.

Pesticide use can not only be dangerous to wildlife, but cuts down on needed food. We suggest no use of pesticides or other poisonous chemicals. If you feel you have to control some weeds or pests, look into more natural products.

5) Glue traps:

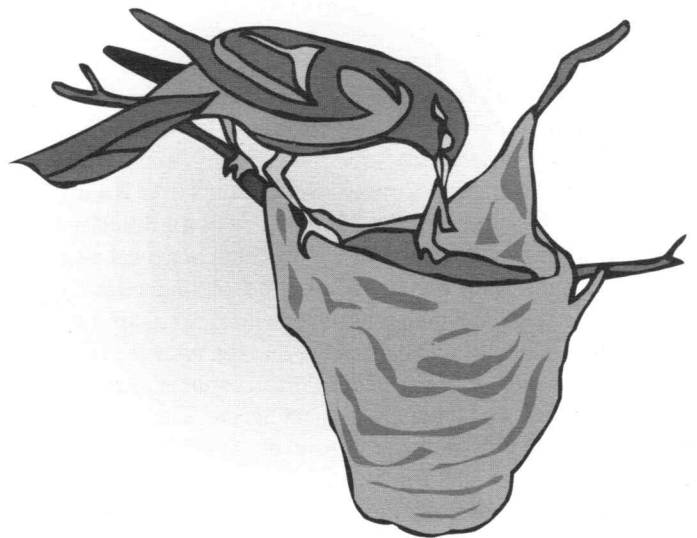
One of the most pathetic sights we see is a bird caught in a glue trap, panicked and dehydrated. Glue traps put out to catch crickets or mice can be deadly to birds. Attracted by insects caught in the glue birds find themselves also glued to these traps. In their struggle to free themselves they often fracture legs or wings. If not able to get loose birds will slowly starve to death. Once glue is on their feathers, birds can no longer keep their feathers clean, eliminating their critical warmth and waterproofing abilities. The procedure we must use to dissolve the glue and recondition feathers is very labor-intensive and only creates more stress for the bird. Obvious solution: NEVER USE GLUE TRAPS.

6) Poor location of bird houses and feeders.

Often we find that those eager to provide food and shelter for birds set bird houses in close proximity to bird feeders. While this may seem convenient for watching birds, too often the result is that other species

attracted to the feeder notice and attack the nestlings or birds just leaving the nest. Be sure feeders are not located in the midst of plants that provide a good hiding spot for predators. If shrubs near feeders become a "lurking spot" for cats place rolled chicken wire under plants.

Finally the best solution is to always remember that we and our feathered friends share the urban environment. With a little care and consideration we can create a more rewarding and satisfying experience for both us and the birds.



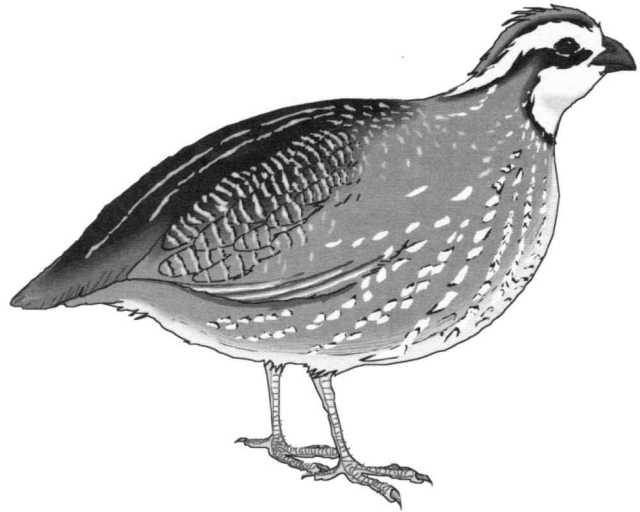
Missouri's Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program Update

Sue Gustafson, State IBA Steering Committee Member

On Saturday, February 19, a joint meeting of the state IBA Steering and Technical Committees was held in Rocheport, MO to review the status of the state's IBA program. Per information appearing in the February 2004 *Talefeathers* describing the program and explaining the nomination process/ period, the Technical Committee spent considerable time analyzing the great response of nominations. Forty seven "sites" have been designated as IBA's in Missouri, and a map depicting the sites will soon be available on the Audubon Missouri website. If anyone would like one electronically in the meantime, please contact me at smgustafson@juno.com.

The Important Bird Areas Program (IBA) recognizes that habitat loss and fragmentation are the most serious threats facing populations of birds across America and around the world. By working through partnerships to identify those places that are critical to birds during some part of their life cycle (breeding, wintering, feeding, migrating) we hope to minimize the effects that habitat loss and degradation have on bird populations. Unless we can slow the rapid destruction and degradation of habitat, populations of many birds may decline to dangerously low levels. The IBA program is a global effort to identify areas that are most important for maintaining bird populations, and it focuses conservation efforts at protecting these sites.

The areas near St. Louis that have been designated as IBA's are Forest Park's Kennedy Woods, Tower Grove Park, and Creve Coeur Lake Park, which have been lumped together as one site that will be known as "St. Louis Urban Migratory Oases". Castlewood State Park will be included in a site known as "Meramec Highlands". Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area will be lumped with Confluence State Park and Columbia Bottom Conservation Area in a site called Missouri/Mississippi Confluence Region. The Weldon Spring/Busch Conservation Area complex has been designated an IBA in St. Charles County. Special thanks to **Randy Korotev, Torrey Berger, Jim Malone and John Solodar** for all the work they did in formally nominating our local sites. Implementation plans on the various sites are underway for eight sites statewide which will include an analysis of necessary habitat restoration/enhancement and the relevant funding needs, along with an assessment of areas partners, educational opportunities, and other site project needs. The Confluence site will be the first local site to be analyzed, and an implementation plan for "key wetland sites statewide" will include Creve Coeur Lake Park. I will keep our members apprised of the IBA Program, including volunteer opportunities with IBA's, as the program progresses.



SLAS Education Committee Participates in Junior Girl Scout Badge Workshop

Sue Gustafson

On Saturday, March 5, six members of St. Louis Audubon Society's Education Committee participated in a day long Junior Girl Scout Badge Workshop held at Lindbergh High School. Our committee sponsored the Wildlife Badge, and 15 Girl Scouts chose to spend the day working on this badge in lieu of the many other badge categories offered that day. We were so excited to get such a great turnout of 4th to 6th grade girls with such a keen interest in wildlife.

In our workshop, the girls learned how to begin identifying birds by markings, songs and calls, and behavior. They also learned how to use binoculars for the bird walk that was held during the workshop. The girls also worked on a wildlife journal throughout the day. Other activities in the Wildlife Badge Workshop included 1) learning the plants and animals of Missouri that are considered endangered or at risk, 2) sketching from the mounted birds and butterflies brought for display, 3) learning about mammals, with a specific look at the coyote, 4) learning about lizards and snakes with assistance from herpetologist Karen Lucy from the Herpetological Society who brought live animals, 5) learning about the various adaptations in animals for finding food, and 6) reviewing the state bird, tree, and flower.

The Education Committee is to be commended for the extensive amount of work put into this workshop that met the criteria required for these enthusiastic girls to earn their wildlife badge. Thanks go to **Sharon Nickl, Lisa Nansteel, Pat McCormick, Dianne Benjamin, Dale Ponce, and Bobbi Poor** of the SLAS Education Committee for a job well done!

Is St. Louis "America's Birdiest County?" You Can Help Us Prove It!

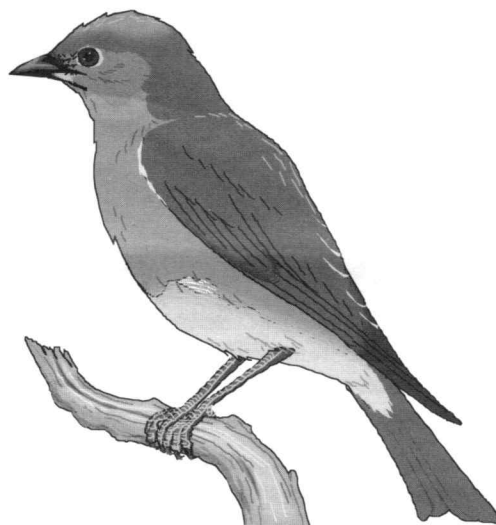
It's a fact that St. Louis birders are treated to a wide variety of birds, but did you ever wonder how many different species of birds call St. Louis County home?

For the past few years, the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) has held an annual countrywide count allowing local birders to know just exactly which birds are out there within the confines of their borders. This year, the Wild Bird Center is excited to organize a count for St. Louis County. We'll be calling all birders to help us prove that we are indeed America's Birdiest County!

But it isn't just a bird count - it's also a fund-raiser for a very worthy bird related organizations. Participants in the count are asked to collect pledges from friends, family and co-workers based on how many varieties of birds are spotted. The money collected will be distributed among the following groups: Wild Bird Rehab, the St. Louis Audubon Society, the American Bird Conservancy and Cornell Lab's Backyard Feeder Count. If you have a favorite amongst this group, you may designate that your collected pledges be directed to that organization.

The count will be held over the weekend of May 20 - 22. Each participant will be limited to a 24-hour period of counting. We want to be certain that ALL of St. Louis County is covered, so we're asking participants to commit to certain regions in the county. The map will be available for viewing and selecting your territory at the store beginning on May 4th, along with detailed rules for the count. We're requesting a minimum pledge of \$10 to participate. Come in early on the 4th to claim your favorite birding spot and get details on the countdown event we'll be holding at the store!

Wild Bird Center
314-439-9453



Tale Feathers

Tale Feathers is published monthly by the St. Louis Audubon Society. Messenger Printing prints 2,500 copies of each newsletter on recycled paper using soy ink. Anne Bolte edits the newsletter.

St. Louis Audubon Society 2004 - 2005

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Attention!

The deadline for the May issue is **April 10**. Send inquiries to Anne by E-mail ambolte@charter.net phone 314.352.0984 post 7032 Jamieson Apt F St. Louis, MO 63109

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Join the St. Louis Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society

As a joint member with National Audubon, you will receive National Audubon's quarterly magazine (Audubon) as well as St. Louis Audubon Society's Newsletter (Tale Feathers). Now you also have the opportunity to join only the St. Louis Audubon Society, receive Tale Feathers, and participate in the educational and conservation activities of St. Louis Audubon. There is no distinction between individual and family membership. Dues cover all members at the same address. For information, call (314) 822-6595.

St. Louis Audubon Society / National Audubon Society -- Membership Application

Use this form to join St. Louis Audubon / National Audubon

For joint membership in St. Louis Audubon Society and National Audubon Society, Make checks payable to **National Audubon Society** and mail to St. Louis Audubon Society, P. O. Box 220227, Kirkwood, MO 63122.

____ Membership / \$35 For renewal in the National Audubon Society we recommend that you use the forms supplied by National Audubon. For more information contact Anne Rankin Horton at 636-256-3402

____ Introductory Membership / \$20 ____ Special Two-Year Introductory Membership / \$30

____ Senior Citizen (62 and older) / \$15 (New and renewal) ____ Student / \$15 (New and renewal)

Membership in only the St. Louis Audubon Society. Write checks payable to **SLAS**. Mail to St. Louis Audubon Society, P. O. Box 220227, Kirkwood, MO 63122.

____ Local Chapter Membership only (St. Louis Audubon Society), Introductory and renewal. / \$15

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Celebrate the return of more than 250 species of neotropical migrant birds that rely on habitats in the Midwest to carry on life.

**INTERNATIONAL
MIGRATORY
BIRD WEEK**

MAY 7 – 15, 2005

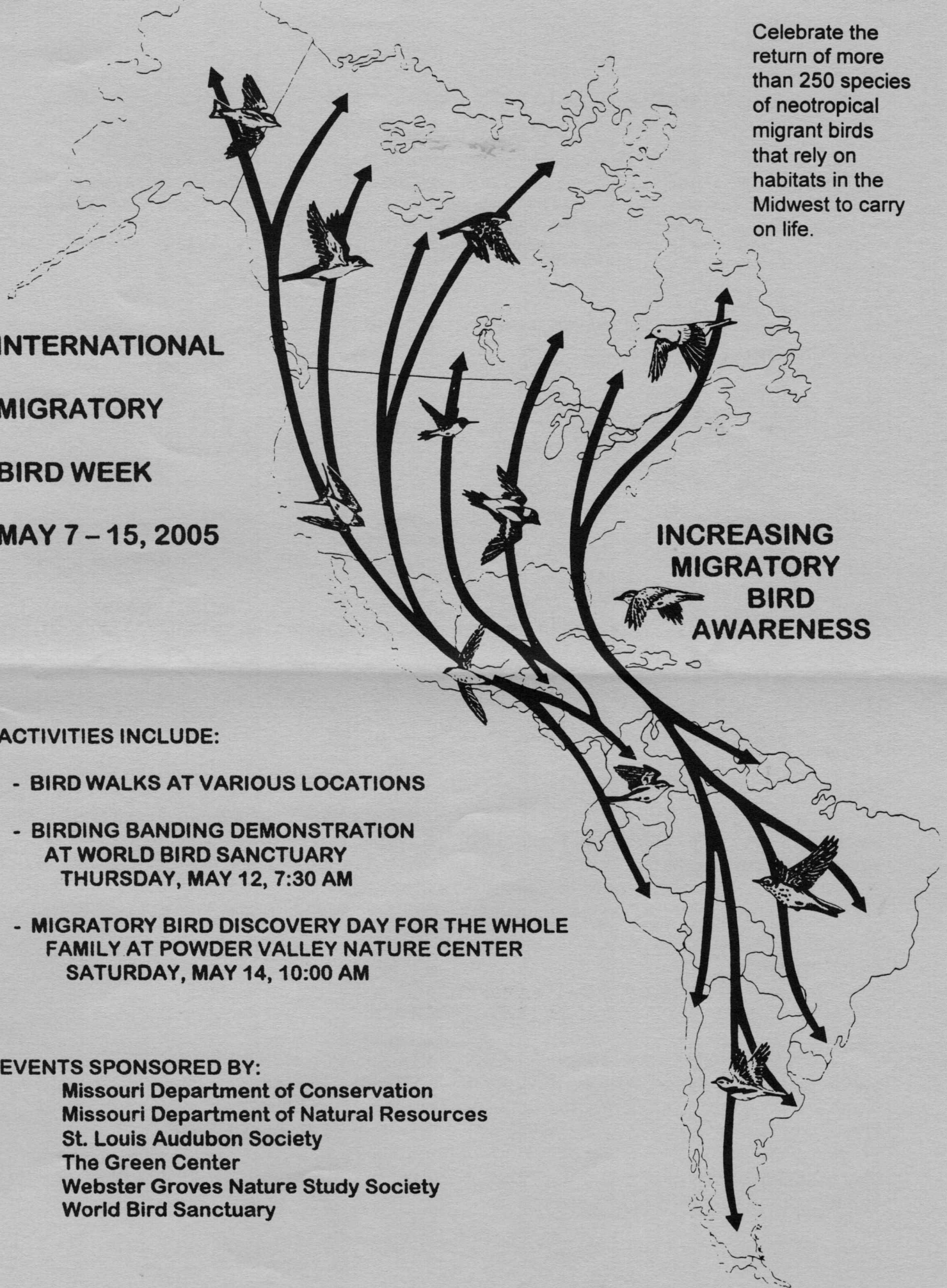
**INCREASING
MIGRATORY
BIRD
AWARENESS**

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- BIRD WALKS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS
- BIRDING BANDING DEMONSTRATION
AT WORLD BIRD SANCTUARY
THURSDAY, MAY 12, 7:30 AM
- MIGRATORY BIRD DISCOVERY DAY FOR THE WHOLE
FAMILY AT POWDER VALLEY NATURE CENTER
SATURDAY, MAY 14, 10:00 AM

EVENTS SPONSORED BY:

Missouri Department of Conservation
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
St. Louis Audubon Society
The Green Center
Webster Groves Nature Study Society
World Bird Sanctuary



International Migratory Bird Week Celebration

May 7 – 15, 2005

The following is a listing of the special events that are happening around the St. Louis area in conjunction with International Migratory Bird Week. None of the events require reservations. All programs are free of charge. Bring binoculars to bird walks, wear comfortable walking shoes, and dress for spring weather conditions. Walks are geared at all experience levels, and beginning birders are especially encouraged to attend.

SATURDAY, MAY 7

BIRDING IN TOWER GROVE PARK

7:30 A.M.

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

Tower Grove Park is historically known as one of the best migratory stop-over sites in the St. Louis area and offers views of numerous species of warblers. Meet at the Gaddy Bird Garden at the northwest corner of the park. Leaders are John Solodar at 314-862-5294 and Pat Leuders at 314-961-6614 for more information.

SUNDAY, MAY 8

BIRDING IN TOWER GROVE PARK

8:00 A.M.

WEBSTER GROVES NATURE STUDY SOCIETY

We'll once again visit this premiere birding spot at what is historically the "peak" date of spring migration. Meet at the Gaddy Bird Garden at the northwest corner of the park. Leaders are Bob Bailey and David Garcia at 314-351-0390 for more information.

THURSDAY, MAY 12

BIRD WALK AT THE GREEN CENTER

8:30 A.M.

THE GREEN CENTER

The bird walk will explore The Green Center's learning/demonstration gardens, a half-acre prairie, a restored wetland, and the 26-acre Ruth Park Woods which attracts a significant variety of migratory songbirds. Meet in front of The Green Center's 1932-era home in University City's Kaufman Park at 8025 Blackberry Avenue. Park in front of Kaufman Park's tennis courts. For more information contact The Green Center at classes@thegreencenter.org, or call Dianne Benjamin, Program Director, 314-725-8314.

Special Event:

Bird Banding Demonstration at World Bird Sanctuary
Thursday, May 12 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

The World Bird Sanctuary will be banding song birds during this special demonstration session. Stop by anytime during the session hours. The event will take place outside, and in the event of adverse weather it will be cancelled. The World Bird Sanctuary is located on the northwest side of the Hwy 44 and Hwy 141 intersection: take the North Outer Road as if you are going to Lone Elk Park, the sanctuary entrance is on the right side of the road just before the Lone Elk Park entrance. For further information, call Linda Tossing at 314-849-4260.

FRIDAY, MAY 13

BIRD WALK AT CASTLEWOOD STATE PARK

8:00 A.M.

MO DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Come explore the meadows and bottomland forest along the Meramec River and Keifer Creek. Our area's most urban state park provides excellent riparian habitat for migrating warblers, breeding habitat for songbird species of conservation concern, and year-round habitat for waterbirds. Meet in the parking lot next to the visitor center. Leader is Mike Brady at 636-391-7631 for more information.

SATURDAY, MAY 14

**MIGRATORY BIRD DISCOVERY DAY
POWDER VALLEY NATURE CENTER**

10:00 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

Do you want to know more about wild birds, birding, and bird awareness? Family activities and demonstrations will feature bird identification tips and a hands-on project. We'll also have materials on how to avoid bird window collisions. No reservations required; the morning program will begin at 10:00 am and the same program will be repeated again starting again at 12:30 pm. Drop in at anytime. For more details, call Sharon Nickl at 636-391-8751.

SATURDAY, MAY 14

NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION COUNT

VARIOUS STARTING TIMES

Every year on the 2nd Saturday of May, Partners in Flight sponsors the North American Migration Count. The goal is to monitor neotropical migrant birds over the long term to look for trends in population, range, and migratory patterns. The Count is very similar to the Christmas Bird Count. Our goal is to cover as many locations in St. Louis City, St. Louis County and St. Charles County as possible. For more information or to take part in one of the counts, contact St. Louis City Compiler, Yvonne Homeyer – 314-963-7750, St. Louis County Compiler, Zoe Geist – 636-467-5030, or St. Charles County Compiler, Paul Bauer – 314-921-3972.

SATURDAY, MAY 14

BIRDING AT FOREST PARK

7:30 A.M.

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

Kennedy Woods in Forest Park is one of the best places in the area to observe warblers and other spring migrants. Trails provided by the Missouri Department of Conservation make this area more accessible to groups. Meet at the trailhead off of Wells Drive west of the south zoo entrance. Leaders are Nick Barber and Paul Bauer at 314-921-3972 for more information.

SUNDAY, MAY 15

BIRDING AT RIVERLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL DEMONSTRATION AREA

8:00 A.M.

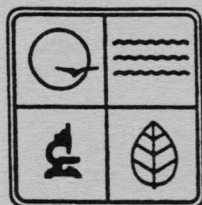
WEBSTER GROVES NATURE STUDY SOCIETY

We'll explore the open water and various pools for waterbirds and migrant landbirds. Meet at the Headquarters building on Riverlands Way. Leader is Torrey Berger at 314-579-9227.

SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS



POWDER VALLEY NATURE CENTER
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
 11715 Cragwold Rd.
 Kirkwood, MO 63122
 For information on programs, call 314-301-1500



**Missouri Department
 of Natural Resources**

CASTLEWOOD STATE PARK
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
 1041 Keifer Creek Rd.
 Ballwin, MO 63011
 Park Office 636-227-4433



ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY
 P.O. Box 220227
 St. Louis, MO 63122
 For information on Bird Week events, call
 Sue Gustafson at 314-968-8128
 For information on bird walks, call
 John Solodar at 314-862-5294
 Visit www.stlouisaudubon.org

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THE GREEN CENTER
 8025 Blackberry Ave.
 University City, MO 63130
 For information on programs, call Dianne Benjamin,
 Program Director, at 314-725-8314
 Visit www.thegreencenter.org

**Webster
 Groves
 Nature
 Study
 Society**

WEBSTER GROVES NATURE STUDY SOCIETY
 P.O. Box 190065
 Webster Groves, MO 63119
 Visit www.wgnss.org



WORLD BIRD SANCTUARY
 185 Bald Eagle Ridge Road
 Valley Park, MO 63088
 636-225-4390
 Visit www.worldbirdsantuary.org